

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 00597 161209Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----162204Z 017578 /64

R 111100Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2603  
INFOQKRUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 1105  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T DOHA 0597

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, QA  
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF QATARIS ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH SYRIAN  
PRESIDENT; SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOING THE SAME THING

REF: SECTO 4023

1. MAY 16 WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY I HAVE HAD TO BRIEF QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI ON PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH ASAD AND CURRENT US PERSPECTIVES ON MID EAST SETTLEMENT. TIMING WAS FORTUITOUS, SINCE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM WAS IN DOHA MAY 15-16 DOING SAME THING.

2. AFTER COVERING POINTS IN REFTEL, I ASKED SUHAYM WHAT  
SECRET

SECRET

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KHADDAM HAD TOLD QATARIS. HE REPLIED THAT SYRIANS MOST PLEASED WITH PERSONAL RAPPORT ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND ASAD. KHADDAM TOLD QATARIS THAT SYRIANS CONCERNED THAT PRESIDENT DETERMINED TO PURSUE ACTIVIST POLICY ON SETTLEMENT, AND US INTENTIONS PERCEIVED AS GOOD. SUHAYM SAID THAT KHADDAM WAS "NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC, BUT REALISTIC" ON PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING SUHAYM, BASED

ON CONVERSATIONS WITH KHADDAM, GOQ'S PREVIOUS HOPES ARE CONFIRMED AND RAISED THAT US WILL MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO CATALYZE COMPREHENSIVE ARAB-ISRAEL SETTLEMENT DURING THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, SUHAYM MADE IT CLEAR THAT OUR KEY CONSULTATION WOULD BE WITH PRINCE FAHD, AND AFTER THIS VISIT GOQ WOULD HAVE BETTER IDEA OF WHETHER REAL MID EAST PEACE POSSIBLE.

3. DURING SEPARATE CONVERSATION SAME DAY, AMIR'S OFFICE DIRECTOR ISSA AL KAWARI, WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH KHADDAM, CONFIRMED THAT SYRIANS REGARD CARTER-ASAD TALKS IN VERY FAVORABLE LIGHT.

4. COMMENT: QATARIS WERE OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH OUR CUTTING THEM IN ON PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH ASAD AND OUR CURRENT VIEWS ON MID EAST SETTLEMENT. STATE REFTEL IS MORE LIKE IT, AND MORE OF SAME WILL BE EQUALLY APPRECIATED.  
PAGANELLI

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, BRIEFINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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